

## STAFF NOTES:

### Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Kaunda Visit Reflects Soviet  
Interest in Southern Africa

The recent visit of Zambian President Kaunda to the Soviet Union appears to have been largely a matter of protocol; thus far there is no evidence that it resulted in any significant change in Soviet-Zambian relations. Moscow's red-carpet treatment of Kaunda may be a sign, however, that the Soviets are increasingly interested in southern Africa.

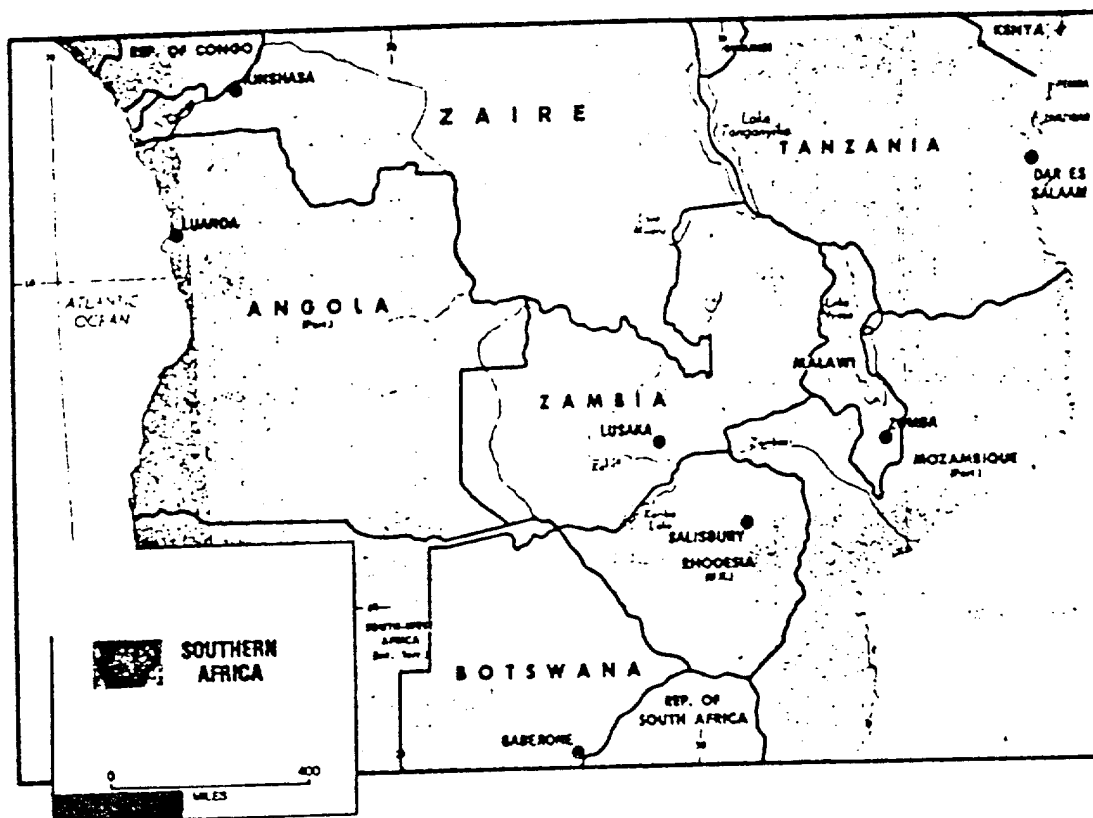
The Soviets seemed most eager to receive Kaunda and pressed him to make the visit this year. At a dinner honoring Kaunda, Soviet President Podgorny expressed satisfaction with the development of relations, but added that there are still many areas that can be broadened and deepened.

One reason for Moscow's current interest in Zambia is competition from the Chinese. Soviet efforts to establish a role in Zambia's economic development in the past have been overshadowed by China, which has been constructing the Tan-Zam railroad and is involved in other projects. The Soviets were upset that Kaunda made two trips to the PRC before honoring Moscow's invitation, which was originally extended in 1964. The Soviets may hope that with the railroad nearing completion they have a chance to increase their influence in Zambia at China's expense.

Perhaps more important in Moscow's view is Zambia's strategic location in an area where efforts toward decolonization have picked up momentum. Podgorny devoted particular attention to Zambia's "front line" role in the liberation struggles and said that this situation places a special responsibility on Zambia.

Moscow has long used Zambia, along with Tanzania, as a funnel for military aid to national liberation

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movements in Angola, Mozambique, and Rhodesia. Because of Portuguese plans to grant independence to Angola and because of Kaunda's contacts with black Rhodesian nationalists, who are striving to supplant the Smith regime in Rhodesia, the Soviets probably view Kaunda as a leader worthy of further cultivation.

Kaunda has consistently supported the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), whose principal leader, Agostinho Neto, is Moscow's long-time favorite. Neto's chief rival for leadership of the national liberation struggle in Angola, Holden Roberto of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), is supported by Zairian President Mobutu, whose visit to Moscow scheduled for December was suddenly canceled by the Soviets, in part because of Zaire's position on Angola. [REDACTED]

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